

Evening Telegraph

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1864.

THE PENNSYLVANIA MILITIA.

An Important Decision—The Question of Exemption.
HEADQUARTERS, Dec. 19, 1864.—In reply to inquiries addressed by several gentlemen, General Todd has written the following letter:

HEADQUARTERS PENNSYLVANIA MILITIA,
INTERIOR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, Dec. 17, 1864.

FIRST—Are those who hold exemption certificates from the United States Board exempt under the State law?

The certificate of exemption for mental or physical disability, given by the physician of the Board, is not evidence of disability disqualifying for State service. Each Board must make its own exemptions, determining from all the circumstances of each particular case, whether the party is a proper subject for exemption.

SECOND—Are those who paid commutation to the United States or furnished substitutes, exempt?

ANSWER.—The citizen who has paid a sum as a contribution to the State, or furnished two exemptions and exemption from service under the provisions of the act of Congress for enrolling and calling out the National Guard, does not relieve a party from the services he owns the State under the militia laws of the Commonwealth. It is a super-added obligation. I have the honor to be, gentlemen, your obedtnt servt.

(Signed) L. M. TODD,
Inspector-General.

LATE FROM THE SOUTH.

Calm Around Petersburg—From South Western Virginia—The Salt Works Considered Safe—Sherman at Savannah—The City an Unimportant Point—Fort McAllister of No Account—The Fight at Coosaatchie—Peace Resolutions Again.

From the Richmond *Press*, Dec. 17.

The Southern army, so long as Sherman has continued to get through Georgia, and to reach a place so safe for himself and his army. It was to be hoped that he might be prevented from accomplishing even final猛; but that he might be annoyed during his march to such an extent as to embarrass his foraging operations and cut off his supply of food, we had reason to fear. All arms to be relieved of their loads for crossing the salt bed, which lay apparently at hand that the militia or the country might either in his train, on his roads, in his rear, and harass his weary troops by night and by day; and that finally, by a combination of these unpredictable circumstances, he might be brought to untimely grave.

His apparently slow and languid progress through the country gave time and to these expectations. For whereas, according to his originally contemplated rate of advance, he should have reached Savannah in twenty days after commencing his march, he did not arrive before that time till the expiration of a month.

He was delayed twelve days, or long enough to march a hundred and eighty miles, even at the rate of ten miles a day, and the twelve days were not taken account of the great march was comparatively painless, and had, indeed, far more the character of a retreat than of an invasion.

Neither the power officers, nor in all cases, anticipated the issue of forces, and commanding officers and every company officer must give his strict personal attention to the welfare of his men.

(Signed) Major-General BRECKINRIDGE.

T. H. MYERS, A. General.

I have found the railroad thus far but little disturbed and my trains will be my b. railroad in a day or two at the earliest. The telegraph is up with me.

HAVING DETERMINED TO CLOSE OUT OUR Winter Stock of Ready-made Clothing, we are sending it in large quantities to our agents in the South, and to our friends in the West, for early delivery, for each article less than the cost of our purchase, we are enabled to offer customers the advantages thereby secured. Our assortment is full and complete, our goods *new, fresh, and fashionable*, equal to any made to order, and sold so much lower in price as to astonish those who usually procure their clothing in that way. An examination invited.

No. 319 CHESNUT STREET,
BRENT & CO.

LIBERAL MERCHANTS MAKE THE MOST MONEY.

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Our cavalry skirmished with the enemy a short distance south of Spring Hill, finding Frazier in command. The river is swelling rapidly. No information from General SHERMAN has been received to-day.

The strategists of the New York Times, who announced him on an imaginary triumphal progress through Georgia and South Carolina, assisted him in his break-up car railroad connection at Branchville, and finally established him comfortably at Greenville, now, very much stronger than ever, and that SHERMAN was really trying to end his purpose until he could communicate with his fleet, and sent word to the commanding general that he had no material loss.

He is safely established on the sea coast. That much, we presume, is settled by the capture of Fort McAllister. And, after all, it is a relief to know exactly how much injury he has inflicted on us, to be able to prognosticate the contingent results of his movement, even at its maximum of probable success, and to estimate with reasonable precision the amount of his disaster, and the damage from his radical change of military policy. In the first we find that the Northern press and the Northern people were entirely deceived by their expectations of extraordinary results to be achieved by General SHERMAN's army during its march.

The capture of Macon and Augusta did not illustrate the history of the war, but the capture of these formed any part of Sherman's plan, his campaign has been a lamentable failure. If they were not taken into account, the great march was comparatively painless, and had, indeed, far more the character of a retreat than of an invasion.

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